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# GEOGRAPHICAL LITERATURE AND MAPS.

(INCLUDING ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY.)

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## BOOK NOTICES.

**European Travellers in India during the Fifteenth, Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries. By Edward Farley Oaten.** xv and 274 pp., Appendixes and Index. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd., London, 1909. 3s. 6d.

The book briefly considers the work of about 100 travellers who visited India in the three centuries named. The author, properly enough, makes no account of a considerable number of other European visitors in that period of whom it may be remarked, as Sir George Birdwood said of Sir John Mandeville: "He is not to be trusted even when telling the truth." Mr. Oaten's method is to summarize the travels of each man whose journeys were important and then to give some idea of what he added, whether much or little, to existing geographical knowledge, and of the evidence he afforded, if any, "with respect to Indian social institutions and the nature and influence of Indian Governments." The testimony of these travellers related to the last three centuries of the mediæval period of Indian history. Mr. Oaten's purpose is a useful one. He does not attempt to pass upon the actual value of all this testimony, though he deals with the work of each traveller in a critical spirit. He found a good many arid spaces in the accumulation of evidence, and the "oases of vital fact were sometimes hard to find." The object of the book is to point out the parts of the narratives that are worth holding fast. This is all the more desirable because no scientific analysis and classification of the materials for Indian history have heretofore been made. The whole ground cannot be covered in so small a book, but, as far as he has gone, Mr. Oaten has done his work well.

**Der Eid, seine Entstehung und Beziehung zu Glaube und Brauch der Naturvölker. Eine ethnologische Studie von Dr. Richard Lasch.** 147 pp. including Bibliography. Strecker & Schröder, Stuttgart, 1908. M. 5.

The book is No. 5 of the series "Studien und Forschungen zur Menschen- und Völkerkunde" edited by Dr. Georg Buschan. It is a careful study of the oath in its origin, its relation to religious faiths and its employment among primitive peoples. The text has 786 references to authorities and the bibliography is very large.

**Im Lande des Erdbebens vom Vesuv zum Aetna. Von Dr. Albert Zacher.** 316 pp. Julius Hoffmann Verlag in Stuttgart, 1909. M. 3.

Dr. Zacher is the correspondent in Italy of one of the leading German newspapers and is famous in his line of work. He has a vivid, trenchant style, can describe things just as he sees them, and, best of all, his literary gift is not per-

verted by exaggeration. It was his fortune to chronicle for the German public the volcanic catastrophes of recent years in Italy and to describe the destruction of Messina and Reggio and the terrible devastation in Calabria wrought not only by last winter's earthquakes, but by the shocks of 1905 and 1906. His book is largely a reprint of the descriptions he wrote of these great calamities. Naturally, he does not approach these topics from the scientific side. It was his province to supply an historical account of the results he witnessed, and there is no doubt that his contribution is worthy to live as a part of the story of these historic events. Even many who care chiefly for the scientific side will be glad to read this masterly description of the effects upon man and his works in the first weeks after these catastrophes occurred.

**Northern France from Belgium and the English Channel to the Loire, excluding Paris and its Environs. Handbook for Travellers by Karl Baedeker.** Fifth Edition. xxxvi and 454 pp., 16 Maps and 55 Plans. Karl Baedeker, Leipzig, 1909. M. 7.50.

This English edition corresponds with the eighth French edition. It has been brought up to date in all respects. Great care has been given to the beautifully produced maps and plans; a short account appears of the usual approaches to northern France for American and English travellers, and heights are given in the text in English feet and on the maps in meters.

**Brésil. Guide des États-Unis du Brésil. Traduction de Roberto Gomes.** First Edition. 219 pp. and Plan in colours of Rio de Janeiro. Bilac, Passos & Bandeira, Rio de Janeiro, 1904.

Shows the objects best worth seeing along the principal lines of travel, especially in the neighbourhood of Rio de Janeiro, and gives a great deal of information about the republic, especially in its ethnographic and cultural aspects.

**Das deutsche Element in den Vereinigten Staaten unter besonderer Berücksichtigung seines politischen, ethischen, sozialen und erzieherischen Einflusses. Von Georg von Bosse.** xiii and 480 pp., Illustrations and Index of Names. Chr. Belsersche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Stuttgart, 1908.

The author is pastor of a Lutheran church in Philadelphia. His treatment of the subject is worthy of its importance. He gives here a condensed history of the Germans in this country, from their early immigration to the present time. He writes clearly of the political, social and cultural influences they have exerted. An especially interesting section deals with these immigrants during our colonial period, in the Revolutionary war and during the first quarter of a century of the Republic. He describes their settlement and the widening of their influence in each of the States, their participation in the Civil War, follows them in their manifold walks of life and tells of their great men. Most of the illustrations are portraits of German-Americans or their sons who have won distinction. He endeavours, with much success, to give some idea of their important participation in practically all our business activities, and of their high place in the professions, literature and in the educational and philanthropic work of the United States. Attention is naturally called to a large number of the German leaders and the only index is a list of their names. This book should have a wider range of readers than its German dress can give it. The spirit of the German-Ameri-